

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11917 021251Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 L-03 IGA-02 RSR-01

SS-15 /128 W

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R 021201Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5315

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11917

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGSAC SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJ: AIR CHIEF MARSHAL DAWEE ON US AID FOR

SUBSTITUTE CROPPING

1. AIR CHIEF MARSHAL DAWEE CHULLASAPYA HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE AUG 2. AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION
OF HIS COMMENTS ON SUBSTITUTE CROPPING FOR NARCOTICS
SUPPRESSION FOLLOWS:

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE TO
BRING UP SUPPRESSION OF NARCOTICS FOR DISCUSSION?

DAWEE: THIS PROBLEM WILL MOST PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED
ALSO. AN ANGLE OF THIS PROBLEM THAT WILL HAVE TO BE
EMPHASIZED IS THAT THOUGH AMERICA WANTS NARCOTICS TO
BE SUPPRESSED IT IS NOT GIVING ANY AID BEFOREHAND TO
PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN CULTIVATING OPIUM. AID MUST BE
GIVEN TO THEM ALSO. THOUGHT MUST NOT BE PAID TO MEASURES
TO PREVENT ONE'S OWN PEOPLE FROM SMOKING OPIUM ONLY, AND
TO MAKE A LOUD OUTCRY FOR SUPPRESSION OF OPIUM WHEN
ONE'S OWN PEOPLE START SMOKING OPIUM. WAS THERE ANY TIME IN
THE PAST WHEN AMERICA SUPPRESSED OPIUM? NO. IN THE
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 11917 021251Z

PAST ONLY FIELD MARSHAL SARIT BURNT AND DESTROYED OPIUM,

BURNT AND DESTROYED GANJA AND OPIUM PIPES, THEN CONCENTRATED ON SUPPRESSION OF OPIUM CULTIVATION. WHEN HILL TRIBES COULD NOT CULTIVATE OPIUM THEY HAD TO TURN TO CULTIVATION OF CORN. BUT 10-20 ASSES CARRYING FULL LOADS OF CORN WERE OF THE VALUE OF ONLY ONE "JOY" (ABOUT 10-15 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM). THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM FACED THAT HAS TO BE REMEDIED BY GIVING AID TO PERSONS WHO CULTIVATED OPIUM FORMERLY. AMERICA OUGHT TO REALIZE THIS FACT AND SEE THE NECESSITY TO HELP FORMER OPIUM PLANTERS TO HAVE GOOD LIVING CONDITIONS AND NEW OCCUPATIONS PROVIDING THEM WITH SUFFICIENT MONEY TO LIVE ON. THOUGH IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO EARN AS MUCH MONEY AS THEY DID FROM OPIUM CULTIVATION, THEY MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT TO ENJOY GOOD LIVING CONDITIONS. IT SHOULD GIVE GREATER SUPPORT TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT IN PLANS TO HELP HILL TRIBES THAN IS BEING GIVEN AT PRESENT. SUPPRESSION WORK CANNOT BE CONCENTRATED ON ONLY WITHOUT GIVING FORMER OPIUM PLANTERS ANYTHING IN RETURN FOR COMPELLING THEM TO GIVE UP OPIUM CULTIVATION. OTHERWISE THOSE HILL TRIBES WOULD BECOME ENEMIES OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT.

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